(d) if so, what are the suggestions made by the vehicle manufacturers; and

(e) what action Government have taken on those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) as a separate category are not recognised by the Government. All safety norms as are applicable to the cars having seating capacity upto 8 passengers, also apply to such vehicles.

(b) There is no legal bar for a third row of seats and as of now there is no move to ban third row of seats in such vehicles.

(c) The Ministry has not held any meeting with the vehicle manufacturers.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Highways in Bihar

†473. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of highways, in kms., to be constructed in Bihar during this financial year;

(b) the number of four-lane highways out of these; and

(c) the amenities to be provided on the highways under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Construction of new roads as National Highways is not envisaged at present. Only existing National Highways are being improved in a phased manner depending upon *inter se* priority and availability of funds. Improvement of about 490 kms. is targeted to be completed in the current Financial Year.

(b) Four-laning is targeted to be substantially completed this year in 206 kms. on NH- 2 and 10 kms. on NH-31, aggregating to the length of 216 kms. out of 490 kms.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There is provision for wayside amenities like toilets, eating places, truck parking, lay-byes, etc., on the highways which are upgraded to four lanes on Golden Quadrilateral and East-West Corridor.

Maintenance of Highways

†474. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance work of Delhi-Jaipur (NH- No. 8) and Delhi- Agra (NH-No. 1) is being neglected since last two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that safety equipment like emergency telephones, CCTV, broad sign boards for the information to the passengers and the equipment for display of weather report were supposed to be installed on both said National Highways which have not yet been installed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir. Maintenance work is being done by NHAI on Delhi-Jaipur (NH-8) and Delhi-Agra (NH-2). Apart from routine maintenance the work of milling of distressed pavement in various sections from km. 162 to km. 220 on NH-8 has been done and refilled with bituminous material. The work of fog sealing for repair of cracks has also been done on NH-8. Similar works have been done on NH-2 wherever required.

(b) to (d) Emergency telephones, CCTV, board for information to passengers and the equipment for display of weather report have been installed on Kotputli-Amer section of NH-8. Design documents for installation of such equipments on the balance portion of NH-8 and NH-2 have been submitted by the operator to NHAI for consideration.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.